A (8) no. 8

True and Impartial Account

OF THE

APPARITION

OF

John Freeman, Esq;

To a Young LADY

At *Dawney-Court*, in *Buckinghamshire.*

ALSO

A True Copy of the GHOST's Letter deliver'd by himself to the Young Lady, who is one of the Daughters of Esquire *F*----------*gs*, of *Heese* in the County of *Middlesex.*

LONDON:

Printed for and Sold by *J. Baker* in *Pater-noster row.*

(8)

363170

THE APPARITION OF *John Freeman*, Esq; To a Young LADY.

I Leave my Reader to his own Opinion, in the following Relation, and whether he believes there is any thing of Truth in it, or whether he thinks it some Intrigue, managed by the Servants against the young Lady, it won't give me the least Uneasiness; I care not two pence whether it's Truth or Fiction, or whether the Reader thinks himself gull'd or not in his Purchase; I can assure him, (tho it's two to one if he believes me) that what I here set down, I had from the Mouth of a Reverend Divine, who had it from Mr. *Tate* the Minister of *Burnham*. I guess by this time you begin to think me very Prolix, but no matter for that, I'll not be out of the Fashion, and an Introduction you must expect; tho, like other Modern ones, there's nothing in it. Therefore to begin,---tho now I think on't, you may be so tired with this Impertinence, that you will hardly be prevailed on to read the

Matter of Fact. I ſay this by Experience, for to me nothing is more tireſome, or jades me more than to read a long Diſcourſe where there's nothing in't; and doubtleſs other People are of my Mind, and tho' they'll Talk, or Write, as long upon Nothing as any Body, yet they are very Averſe to allowing their Neighbours the ſame Privilege; this is a very Moroſe Temper, but it ſignifies nothing being Troubled at it, for as a certain Philoſopher ſays, *We muſt either Bear with the World, or Reform it*, the firſt we know, conſulting Reaſon, is very Eaſy, but the latter Impoſſible. Now if you think this Trifling and Tireſome, I wou'd have you look upon me as a Man, conſequently have my Impertinencies and Failings as well as my Neighbours, and if you thus look upon me, you will rather Pity than be Angry with me. There is another Conſideration, will prevent the flying into a Paſſion with my Prolixity, which is this, That it's Five hundred to one I never hear a Word on't, and if I ſhou'd I've too much Philoſophy to be picqued at it. Paſſion ſhews a Man very Weak, and why I ſhou'd be Angry at another's Infirmities, and rave becauſe another is Mad, I can't tell. But to give over being Loquacious, I ſhall proceed to tell you, That ſome Ladies going from *Dawney Court* to *Burnham* Fair (whether on Foot, or on Horſeback, may I be Hang'd if I can be Poſitive: tho' I'm apt to believe on Foot, but as that is nothing Material to the matter in Hand, I ſhall not inſiſt on their Walking or Riding) a Gentleman and his Servant Riding by, with abundance of Wit and Good Manners, told the Ladies *it was very Dirty*, to which Mrs.—— (now whip me if I have not forgot the Young Lady's Chriſtian Name) but no matter, her ſingle Sirname may ſuffice (*J——ngs*, Daughter to Mr. *J——ngs* of *Heeſes* in *Middleſex*, very wittily reply'd, *it was ſo; but if ſhe had known it had been ſo, truly ſhe wou'd not have come abroad.*

The

The Juſtneſs of her Reaſoning, the Gaiety of her Air, and the Beauty of her Expreſſions it ſeem'd made a very deep Impreſſion on the Gentleman, who at that time ſaid no more, but with a Bow holſter-low, *Ladies your very humble Servant.* A great many People now might keep you here half an Hour upon his *Soliloquies* and Uneaſineſs, but that wou'd make the Truth of my Narration be called in queſtion, by it's ſavouring too much of Romance, and as I dont deſign to Amuſe you with Falſities, I ſhall ingeniouſly confeſs, I am intirely in the Dark as to the State of his Mind and Body, from his taking his Leave, till he ſent his Servant; whether his Nights were reſtleſs, or his Thoughts wholly employ'd in the contemplating the Beauties of the Lovely Maid: or whether he form'd a hundred Melancholy, or Pleaſant Ideas, truly I can't tell, and ſhould do very ill to put my own Conjectures on the World for Truth; but, however it fared with him, not many Days after Young Mrs *J——ngs* ſtanding at her Brother in Law's Door, at the farther Gate, ſees a Man ſitting on Horſeback, who beckon'd her with his Whip two or three times; but ſhe who has had the Benefit of a Polite Education, beſides the Advantage of a Ripe Judgment, thought it improper to be at any Man's beck, (not but ſhe has Humility and Complaiſance enough, where Modeſty gives Allowance) therefore goes in and aſſociates her ſelf with her Siſters, but it there came into her Head it might be one of her Brothers from *Heeſe* (who are Men of ſuch acute Wit, ſolid Senſe, liberal Education, that were I here to Sum up their Virtues, it wou'd make a Book of it ſelf worth a Peny:) This Thought of hers ſhe communicates to the reſt of the Company, who with great Impatience waited the Entrance of a Witty and Entertaining Companion, but to their great Diſappointment they ſaw no body appear, and going to the Door they ſaw plainly there was no Body to be

ſeen

ſeen; this paſt on and they thought no more on't, but Lived after their accuſtomed manner, innocently Merry; but in a Day or two the ſame Man was ſeen by the Young Lady, who Beckon'd to her with more Earneſtneſs than before (it's likely being unwilling to be ſent oftner, for the Weatherbe being Cold and Dirty, it certainly made many Journeys troubleſome) the Young Lady going into the Kitchin ordered the Cook to go to the outward Door, and know the Beckoner's buſineſs; ſhe in reſpect to the Young Lady, who was Siſter to her Miſtreſs, and having learn'd Complaiſance, by the Example of the whole Family, very readily condeſcended to her Requeſt, and went out to enquire of the Man what his buſineſs was. But he did not ſtay to give her leave, for on her Approach he clapp'd Spurrs to his Horſe, and Rid off. It's very probable the Curious will be very Deſirous to know the Reaſon of his abrupt Departure, but as I'm intirely Ignorant, I hope they will excuſe me if I dont reſolve 'em; I ſhan't give my Opinion in the Caſe, but leave every one to Judge of it as he thinks fit. But to proceed, about a Fortnight after the flight of the Horſeman, a Beggar Boy brought a Letter, which deſired the Young Lady to come to the Gate, for the ſame Beckoner had a Meſſage he muſt deliver to none but her ſelf. The Lady after mature Conſideration, and Conſulting the ſtricteſt Rules of Modeſty, concluded ſhe might, without endangering her Character, receive the Meſſage, and advancing to the Door, the Man, who it ſeems was Servant to the Gentleman that ſpoke to her on the Road, alighting from his Horſe, with the Reſpect due to one he looked upon as his Miſtreſs, Tells her, *That his Maſter was ſo in Love with her Wit and Complaiſance, that he muſt be Diſtracted if ſhe wou'd not Conſent to be his, which if ſhe did, he wou'd the next Day fetch her in a Coach and Six, and make her Happy in being Miſtreſs of a good Eſtate, lying in the Arms*

of

of a Loving husband. Now, were I writing a Romance, I shou'd make the Lady Answer according to her Character, but as I don't know the Answer she made him, so I shan't make one for the two following Reasons; First I shall do Injustice to her Wit, and next I shall break in upon Truth; but whether she Answered to the Proposition or not, the Servant took his leave, and I suppose return'd to his Master, not that I am sure on't; however I am very certain the Lady went in again, and accquainted her Relations with the Passage, who were very Merry upon the Subject, either pleased with the Prospect of the Young Lady's good Fortune, or else, being Women of Wit, turning the Odness of the Gentleman's Address into Ridicule, I might give you a Taste of more than common Wit in the Repitition of part of their Discourse, but intending to be Concise, and thinking it nothing material, I shall pass it by, tho' it's with Reluctance; but *ad rem.* Some time Elaps'd before they hear any more from the Enamour'd Gentleman, but at length a Letter was found in the Porch which was signed *Mary Freeman*, giving an Account, *That at such a time her Brother Riding to* Burnham Fair *was fallen violently in Love with Mistress* J——ngs, *on the Witty Answer made by her; that he had sent his Servant to acquaint her of his Passion, and did intend to have waited on her himself, but was taken suddenly Sick and Dyed; that since his Death, he had Appeared to her and order'd her to give to Mistress* J——ngs *the following Legacies* (viz.) *Twelve Dozen of Gold Counters, a Gold Pack of Cards, a Tea Table Covered with Plate, a Boiler Tea pot, and Lamp of Silver, a Gold Watch, a Diamond Ring, and a Lace Head, which she was ready to Deliver when ever she wou'd set a Day that she wou'd be at her Father's House in* Chancery Lane; she let's her know, *that her Brother was the Post which wou'd convey her Letters and Answers,* Thus several Letters past, and Mrs. *J——ngs* wou'd receive Answers

to her Letters in three or four hours time, from *London*, which is about two or three and twenty Miles. At laſt Mrs. *Freeman* tells her, *her Brother is deſirous of an Interview*, and begs ſhe will appoint the Night; the Young Lady Conſults with her Brother and Siſter *Palmer*, who thought it Convenient to ask advice of *Mr. Tate* Parſon of *Burnham*, which they did, and with his Approbation ſhe writes a Letter, and appoints the *Sunday* Night following, the Place of meeting to be in the Porch, ſhe accordingly goes to the Place of Rendezvouſe at the hour appointed which was *ten*, but there meets a Letter to tell her the Ghoſt was Engaged that Night, but deſires ſhe wou'd appoint ſome other. She then writes a Letter and fixes on the next Night, in the ſame Place, but has for Anſwer, *that he will meet her in her own Chamber at the time appointed*, (I ſuppoſe fearful leſt the Lady might endanger her Health by being at that hour in a Cold open Porch.) But I had like to forget telling the Letters which were writ by Mrs. *Mary Freeman*, and convey'd by the Loving Spirit, gave account of their private Diſcourſe upon the Subject, eſpecially when her Mother adviſes her to ſend her Siſter *Pat* for the Legacies, which to prevent, Mrs. *Mary Freeman* tells her ſhe went to *Hayſe* Church, that ſhe might know *one from* the other by advice of her Deceaſed Brother; again in another Letter ſhe ſays, *her Brother was going to ſpeak to her, when he was prevented by a Child of Mr.* Palmers *who lyes with her Calling out on the Maid*, Jane; but to paſs by Little Circumſtances, the Ghoſt, like a Ghoſt of Honour, is Punctual to the time perfixt, and coming into her Chamber with a wax Candle in his Hand (out of good Husbandry I ſuppoſe) puts out that which was Burning in the Room; his Dreſs was an Embroided Coat, a Tyed Wig, but I proteſt I can't tell what Colour either the Wigg or Cloath were of, Black Silk Stockings, and Buckles

which

which out-ſhined Diamonds, you may perceive by his Dreſs, there are *Beaux* in the other world, but the Indicting of his Letter will be a greater proof; he looked upon her a conſiderable time when ſhe asked him *in the Name of God what he wanted*? he made no anſwer, but giving her the follwoing Letter, Diſappear'd.

My Dear,

YOU little think I am looking on you, one ſo good and ſo Young I never ſaw, always at Prayers, and for your Father and Mother, God will proſper all their Undertakings, you will be a great Body; I am ſorry I cou'd not live to make you ſo. I would have ſent to you when I was Sick, but they would not let me, I hope God will puniſh them for it. I am in very great Pleaſure, but ſhou'd have been more ſo, if God had permitted me to live with you, I wou'd have ſettled great part of my Eſtate on you, but it was tyed. I would have ſpoke to you, but God won't permit it, I ſhall now be at Reſt and Trouble you no more.

Your loving Ghoſt, John Freeman.

Nothing certainly can Diſcover more Paſſion than the foreſaid Letter of the Amorous Ghoſt, there's a ſort of Confuſed Abruptneſs in it, which has a wonderful deal of moving

Oratory

Oratory, any Body may perceive there's nothing Study'd in it, but that he writ in a Plain, Simple and Natural Style; he had too much Paſſion to give him leave to write an Elaborate Epiſtle, and he has ſhew'd a greater Tenderneſs in the above Nonſence, than if he had writ by a Copy of *Tom. Brown's* Letters from the Dead to the Living. Here is a Copious Subject for your Natural Philoſophers to Quarrel upon, and ſhew their parts. And I do aſſure you none of *Mr. Palmer's* Family at *Dauny Court*, will deny the Story, being in effect as I've related it. Nay I'm certain *Mr. Tate*, who is a Man of Probity, will atteſt it, if any will give themſelves the trouble to Enquire at *Burnham*; as for my part I find nothing difficult in it, but belief, for that an Immaterial can convey a Material we ſee by the Wind daily. I was going upon a Subject which wou'd have taken up too much Paper for the Price. But I promiſe the Reader, if he deſires it, to Print a true Copy of the Letters which paſt between the Sifter of *Mr. Freeman* and the Lady, and to let him know when the Legacy is received.

F I N I S.